

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1-6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) An elongated device for medical procedures comprising a superelastic member having a first section with a first set of properties and an adjacent second section having a second set of properties which have been altered from the first set of properties by alloying the second section with an easily diffusible element, wherein said easily diffusible element is selected from the group consisting of oxygen, hydrogen, and nitrogen, and the superelastic member comprises a nickel-titanium alloy.

8-19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently Amended) The elongated device of claim [[10]]7, wherein the easily diffusible element is hydrogen.

21. (Currently Amended) The elongated device of claim [[10]]7, wherein the easily diffusible element is oxygen.

22. (Previously Presented) The elongated device of claim 7, wherein the altered properties comprise reduced superelasticity.

23. (Previously Presented) The elongated device of claim 7, wherein the second section of the superelastic member having the altered properties comprises a distal end of the superelastic member.

24. (Previously Presented) The elongated device of claim 23, wherein the distal end is at least about 3 cm in length.

25. (Previously Presented) The elongated device of claim 23, wherein the altered properties comprise reduced superelasticity.

26. (Previously Presented) The elongated device of claim 25, wherein the distal end is at least about 3 cm in length.